



Prof. Dr. Mehmet Hakan AKAY

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Hakan Akay was born in 1968 in Burdur. Following his graduation from Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine in 1992, he commenced his residency in Cardiovascular Surgery at the Istanbul Siyami Ersek Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Centre in the same year, fulfilling a lifelong dream. During his specialist training, he concentrated on advanced techniques in cardiovascular surgery, developing a keen interest in open-heart surgery, major vessel surgery, and the surgical treatment of congenital heart diseases. In 1998, he was accepted into the international fellowship program at the Texas Heart Institute, one of the world's leading cardiac surgery centres, under the supervision of Dr. Denton Cooley. At the conclusion of his first year, he was honoured with the "Best Fellow" award. After completing a sub-specialty in congenital heart surgery at Texas Children's Hospital in 2000, he began a five-year residency in General Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine under the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery. During this period, he was consistently recognized with the "Best Surgical Resident" award each year. Re-admitted to the Texas Heart Institute in 2006, Dr. Akay completed his residency in Thoracic Surgery and successfully finalized a sub-specialty in heart transplantation and mechanical circulatory support systems in 2008. He obtained his American Board of Surgery certification in 2007 and his American Board of Thoracic Surgery certification in 2009. Between 2009 and 2011, he conducted extensive research and clinical work in advanced heart failure, artificial heart support devices, and transplantation alongside Dr. O. H. Frazier at the Texas Heart Institute. In 2013, he continued his academic career as an Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Centre at Houston, where he was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2022. During this time, he provided clinical leadership, managed educational programs, and made significant contributions to scientific research in heart transplantation, mechanical circulatory support devices, artificial heart systems, and advanced heart failure surgery. Since 2023, Prof. Dr. Akay has served as the Surgical Director of the Department of Advanced Heart Failure at Houston Methodist Hospital, where he also holds the position of Surgical Director of Heart Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support Systems. His research focuses

particularly on the clinical integration of new technologies developed for advanced heart failure treatment, enhancing the performance and patient safety of mechanical circulatory support devices, improving post-transplant outcomes, and the development of artificial heart technologies. Today, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Hakan Akay continues his clinical and scientific contributions as an internationally recognized cardiovascular surgeon, academic, and researcher.